

THE EVE OF PARLIAMENT.

DISASTER IMPENDING IN EGYPT—THE REFORM BILL.

BAKER'S PERILOUS ADVANCE—GORDON'S JOURNEY—THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ENGLAND.

(BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.)
LONDON, Feb. 2.—The situation in Egypt abounds in more perplexities than ever. Military experts consider that Baker Pacha's attempt to relieve Tokar with a force partly drilled and wholly untrustworthy invites disaster, yet is imperative. Telegrams from Trinkat, Baker's present headquarters, paint the prospects in the gloomiest colors, and intimate that his main hope is to bribe the sheiks. The latest news from General Gordon convinces Anglo-Egyptians that treachery is at work at Cairo against him. They do not believe the alleged mistake about the young Sultan of Darfour, and insist that the Pacha has intentionally imposed the wrong man on General Gordon, and mean that he shall fail. They expect that he will be assassinated before he reaches Khartoum. These are inferences. Nobody knows the facts; but general anxiety is increasing.

Everybody feels that a possible catastrophe in Egypt may upset the programme of the session and perhaps the Government itself.

END OF THE VACATION.
The last week before the meeting of Parliament has been employed by both sides in bringing their heavy artillery to the front. There has been a steady fire of speeches on every subject by politicians of every grade in both parties. The Cabinet has been engaged in arranging the programme of the session, in framing bills and in polishing the Queen's Speech, which Mr. Gladstone yesterday sent to Osborne to submit for her approval. Mr. Gladstone, who received four important deputations on Thursday, added no knowledge of the character of the coming measure, but spoke firmly, even sternly, of the necessity for resisting the threatened opposition, whatever its nature, direct or indirect, the latter being regarded by him as more dangerous than the former. He proclaimed the immovable resolve of the Government to use every legitimate means to carry the Reform Bill. These deputations represent the trades-unions throughout the United Kingdom, the agricultural laborers for whom Mr. Joseph Arch spoke weightily, the miners, the Clyde shipwrights, and workmen generally, besides the Leeds Conference, which Mr. John Morley described as representing 510 Liberal associations in all parts of the country. No previous demonstration of public opinion has made such an impression or has spoken for so many powerful classes.

THEY AND IRISH TACTICS.
These and other overwhelming proofs of the irresistible strength of the popular demand have convinced the Tories that the best chance of obstructing the progress of the Reform Bill consists in embarrassing the Ministry on side issues. Hence, the Tory leaders propose to make their first attack, not on the Reform Bill, but on the Egyptian policy of the Government. Notice has already been given that an amendment will be moved to the Address, and a division taken at the earliest moment.

The attitude of the Irish party in regard to the Franchise Bill remains uncertain. The latest announcement is that Mr. Parnell will support the Tory demand for a statement of the Government's plan for a redistribution of seats, unless the Ministers pledge themselves that the present number of Irish members shall not be reduced—a pledge they could neither give nor keep.

SPEECHES OF THE WEEK.
Mr. Bright and Mr. Chamberlain made two long speeches each at Birmingham on Tuesday and Wednesday, which surpassed all others in general interest. Mr. Bright's first speech was a pungent attack on the Tory party; his second one was a destructive criticism on Henry George, ridiculing the proposal to confiscate the land, and asking why this American invention had not first been tried in America. He drew a striking and elaborate comparison between Mr. George's scheme for nationalizing land and the Southern slave-owners' scheme for nationalizing labor, declaring that there was just as great cruelty, just as great folly and just as great injustice in the attempt to confiscate property in land as in the Southern attempt to turn free labor into slave labor. Mr. Bright's remedy for the land troubles is to abolish primogeniture, and to facilitate the transfer of real estate.

Frederic Harrison, one of the most eminent radicals in England and a social reformer, says that Henry George is trying to import into England the morals of the Californian bandit and mail-robbler.

The most noticeable point in Mr. Chamberlain's speech was his eulogy on the moderation of the coming Reform Bill, which he described as a modest little bill proceeding on the old lines of the Constitution, interfering as little as possible with existing arrangements, and disturbing as little as possible present privileges. This modest little bill is expected to enfranchise two millions of men.

TWO CONTROVERSIAL ESSAYS.
There are two striking articles in the February magazines. Herbert Spencer, in *The Contemporary Review*, advances the paradox that Liberals are Tories of a new type, and that modern Liberalism is steadily enlarging the coercive interference of the State with individual liberty. He cites as examples the inspection of schools, the Cities Disinfect, and the Factories acts, admitting that they have a good motive, but insisting that they reverse former Liberal principles. The whole article is an ingenious extension of Mr. Spencer's well-known argument that the State should govern as little as possible.

In *The Nineteenth Century* Cardinal Newman makes one of his rare appearances to controvert M. Renan's position that the Roman Catholic Church can make no compromise with science nor accept the results of philological inquiry impairing the inspiration of Scripture. Cardinal Newman quotes M. Renan at second-hand, and meets him with usual clericalisms more ingenious than conclusive.

THE LONDON STAGE.

considers that Miss Anderson shows genuine power.

Mr. Burnand's burlesque, "Camaralzaman," produced on Thursday at the Gaiety, was imperfectly rehearsed and doubtfully received. It is really neither better nor worse than other similar pieces. It is brilliantly dressed and acted with spirit. Planquette's opera bouffe, "Nell Gwynne," is promised for Thursday at the Avenue Theatre with Miss Florence St. John in the title role.

THE WHITE ELEPHANT CONTROVERSY has been settled by a letter from the Siamese Minister, whom Mr. Barnum's agent invoked as an authority, alleging that he had seen Tong and pronounced him a genuine sacred white elephant. The Minister's published letter says that he never saw Tong, and never pronounced him genuine, and declares that the existence of sacred elephants, white or black, is unknown in Siam.

G. W. S.

PHASES OF EUROPEAN GOSSIP.

TOPICS TALKED ABOUT IN LONDON.

GAMBLING IN LONDON CLUBS AND AT MONTE CARLO.

—FURNITURE AT WINDSOR CASTLE.
LONDON, Feb. 2.—The trial of the fifty-two aristocratic members of the Park Club, London, who were charged with gambling in playing baccarat in the rooms of the club, is disappointing. It began on Friday at the Bow Street Police Court, and so far no important revelations have been made. The countess of Warwick, a host of men about town, and the defendants mean to limit the extent of the gambling. The prosecution, however, want to put in evidence many cases where thousands of pounds changed hands at a single sitting. Since the beginning of the police proceedings most of the clubs have substituted cards for baccarat. But heavy play still continues the rule.

THE SUICIDE OF HERR ELLINGER.
Herr Ellinger, of Vienna, who committed suicide last Wednesday at Monte Carlo, was one of the most successful men connected with the turf in Germany and Austria. He was a gambler, and he was a heavy loser.

GAMBLING AT MONTE CARLO.
The Pope this morning gave audience to a deputation of Catholics from Nice and Cannes, who asked him to lend his assistance in suppressing the gaming tables at Monte Carlo. He listened attentively to what they had to say and gave them a favorable answer.

SWINDLED BY BETTING IN FRANCE.
The French authorities have received many complaints from persons who have been swindled by the betting agents scattered through France. They have at last decided to suppress the agencies. Numbers of the book-makers, on learning that a raid was imminent, took alarm and escaped across the frontier.

THE ROYAL WEDDING AT DARMSTADT.
The Queen will hold two drawing-rooms at the opening of the season before going to Darmstadt to attend the wedding of the Princess Victoria of Hesse. The wedding dress of the Princess is made of Irish poplin from Dublin.

THE QUEEN AND THE POPULAR TRADE.
The Queen has ordered Irish poplin for curtains and upholstery of State furniture in two suites of apartments at Windsor Castle. One suite for the Queen's private apartments, and the other for the Queen's private apartments. The Queen has also ordered Irish poplin for the Queen's private apartments.

DOMESTIC TROUBLES OF A PRINCESS.
The German Imperial family is greatly disturbed at the renewal of the matrimonial differences between Prince Frederick Charles and his wife, the Princess Marie Anna. The Princess has returned to her family at Ansbach, and has refused to live under the same roof with her husband.

YICHOV'S ARMY GOING TO AMERICA.
Prince Yichov Napoleon, son of Prince Napoleon (Bonaparte), and who was designated by the Emperor as his successor, contemplates making a tour of the United States the coming summer.

A DENIAL BY MR. BENJAMIN.
Judah P. Benjamin writes to the papers from Avenue Junia, Paris, that he never entertained any idea in any form of assembling a force which has been current in America by the publication of an alleged letter of his, to the effect that he proposed the return of the Southern States to their allegiance to Great Britain.

ITALIAN EMIGRATION TO AMERICA.
At Rome the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda has instructed the Archbishops of Genoa and Naples, the principal centers of Italian emigration to America, to co-operate with the Archbishops of New York, Boston and Baltimore, for the protection of Italian immigrants. Signor Vincent Galante leaves Naples for New York as the official correspondent between the American emigration committees and the Propaganda.

THEATRICAL MATTERS.

There are wide differences in the critical opinions of Mary Anderson's *Clara*. George Augustus Sala pronounces it a brilliant triumph. He says she showed immense power of a high order and carried the house by storm. The critic of *The Times* writes: "Heavy-laden impudences weigh upon all her efforts to be sprightly." Edmund Yates, in *The World*, says: "She has not been endowed with the sacred fire given only to the few. She lacks subtlety, grace, repose." And yet, despite the fact that the majority of the critics are against her, the popularity of the American actress is constantly on the increase. The receipts at the Lyceum are over \$2,000 weekly. Three London managers have placed theatres at Miss Anderson's disposal on the termination of her engagement at the Lyceum. Her agent has offered Lawrence Barrett \$1,000 to postpone the opening of his engagement at the Lyceum for several weeks. Barrett, however, declines to entertain the proposition. Miss Anderson is contracting for the lease of the New Prince's Theatre, and has offered Mr. Gilbert \$2,000 for the copyright of *"The Palace of Truth"*, the leading role in which she is now playing.

The marriage engagement of Miss Fortescue, late of the Savoy Theatre, and Lord Garmoyne has been broken off.

Wilson Barrett will play *Hamlet* after the withdrawal of "Claudian." Play-goers doubt Mr. Barrett's capacity for Shakespearean dramas.

Mr. Albany has sold two comedies to Edgar Bruce, the manager of the Prince's Theatre. The first will be produced after the withdrawal of "The Palace of Truth."

Brander Matthews' new drama is in preparation at the Court Theatre, and will be produced some time in March. The Vokeses propose to make a tour of America in the spring.

The reproduction of "La Dame aux Camellias" at the Port Arthur Theatre, Paris, with Bernhardt as *Marguerite Gautier*, has met with immense success. This has renewed the gossip concerning Dumas and Marie Duplessis, who was the original *Marguerite*. The papers publish a letter written by Dumas to her in which he says: "I am not rich enough to love you as I wish nor poor enough to be loved as you wish me to be. Live as both together." Marie sent this letter back tied round with a banner on which she said that a man who could write such a letter as that merited the cross.

MUSICAL NOTES.

A new play by MM. Melhae and Hervé, called "La Cosaque," has been produced at the Varieties, with Madame Judie in the principal role. It contains a number of quaint melodies which are taking. The piece was originally written for the Varieties.

It is announced that Patti will arrive in England in May. Her engagement at Covent Garden is still undecided. She is offered a concert tour through England and Scotland at a thousand pounds a night.

Liza's new oratorio, "Stabat Mater," is nearly completed. It will be produced at the coming festival of the German Musical Union at Weimar.

Mackenzie's oratorio, "The Rose of Sharon," will be produced at the Norwich festival.

LITERARY.

The Queen's new book, "Life in the Highlands," is giving enormous orders. The *World's* account of its contents is inaccurate. The diary contains much twaddle, such as remarks about the character of the immortal Brown and other domestic incidents in the early life of the Princesses Christian, Beatrice, Louise.

Browning's new poem will appear in April. The sculptor Thornycroft is preparing a bust for the monument of the poet Gray, of Elegg fame, for Pembroke College, Cambridge.

John Jennings is engaged in writing a life of John Wilson Croker, a prominent politician of a generation ago. He will give letters from the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel, written during the early Reform agitation. It is reported that Signor Edmondo de Amicis, the cele-

brated Italian traveller and author, is going to America to lecture. He has been guaranteed 40,000 lire.

WAR MEASURES IN THE SOUDAN.

INEFFICIENCY OF EGYPTIAN TROOPS.

GENERAL GORDON'S JOURNEY FROM ASSOUAN TO BERBER.

LONDON, Feb. 2.—Advices from Cairo to-day indicate that the alarm for the fate of the garrisons of Tokar and Sinek is greatly intensified. The delay of Baker Pacha's advance has without doubt sealed the fate of Sinek, where Tewik Bey, with 400 soldiers and 1,000 women and children, has been besieged for some weeks past. A messenger reached Suakin from Tewik on Thursday, who announced that unless relief reached Sinek by Saturday Tewik would make one rally more, and in case he was defeated would then surrender. It is reported that the delay of Baker Pacha to advance is due to the disaffection of the black troops, owing to the removal of their leader, Zohreh Pacha. The English officers with Baker Pacha at Trinkat report that the Egyptian troops are so utterly inefficient in drill and the use of rifles, while the native officers are cowardly and unwilling to march on the ground, that defeat is certain. Baker will await the arrival of friendly sheiks and do all in his power to relieve Tokar by the use of diplomacy and bribery before forcing his troops to march inland. Military critics calculate that in case Baker Pacha is compelled to cut his way through to Tokar the chances are three to one in favor of the complete annihilation of all his forces.

The advices from Cairo in regard to the Abyssinians are conflicting. The report that RAO ALDRA, commander of the Abyssinian forces, had withdrawn his troops and left the road between Massowah and Kassaia open, is now contradicted. It is rumored that the Abyssinians are seizing territory beyond their frontier. Parties of raiders have appeared in the vicinity of Kassaia, but they were unable to make an attack as they were armed only with lances.

The fears for General Gordon's safety have been greatly alleviated by the report that he takes a guard with him from Assouan to Berber, where a small force will meet him from Khartoum. The fact that General Gordon has been obliged to send a complaint to Cairo that the son of the Sultan at Darfour, who was sent with him to assist in the work of pacification, is an habitual drunkard, and is totally incompetent for the place, raised the suspicion that the Egyptian authorities are trying to hamper General Gordon in his arduous undertaking. It is considered doubtful whether the Egyptian authorities are really desirous of his success. These and similar troubles are tending inevitably to the permanency of a British protectorate over Egypt. Even his appointment as governor of the Sudan by the German official papers, while Baron Rodolphe and other financiers who are interested in the security of Egyptian finances, are urging a public assurance of the continuance of the protectorate.

PREPARING THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

A MEETING OF THE CABINET COUNCIL AT OSBORNE—THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, Feb. 2.—The Queen held a cabinet council at Osborne, Isle of Wight, where she is now residing, preliminary to the opening of Parliament. The subjects to be considered in the Queen's speech were discussed. It is already known that the speech will have nothing new to disclose, and is awaited with general indifference and lack of interest. The first night of the session will be marked by the renewal of party contests. The Opposition will take the initiative by moving an amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech, based upon the policy of the Government in the management of Egyptian affairs. This will be followed up by the Parnellites, who will censure the action of the authorities in suppressing public meetings in Ulster. Lord Randolph Churchill, with a section of the Tories, will offer an amendment against the proposed reduction of the Irish franchise. Many other amendments are threatened. So the outlook for practical legislation is not promising. According to present prospects it may be blocked for months.

The leaders of the Irish party will meet in Dublin on Thursday to decide upon a policy and concert plans for the Parliamentary campaign. It is believed that they will decide to follow the same general course as hitherto. In case the speech from the Throne promises any radical measures for Ireland, special amendments declaring the urgent necessity of immediate legislative reforms for Ireland will be moved in the debate on the address. Each Nationalist member will be charged to watch the progress of the special measures with the closest attention.

MISAPPROPRIATING PUBLIC FUNDS.

THE CANADIAN FINANCE MINISTER CHARGED WITH ASSESSING THE EXCHANGE BANK.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 2.—It would appear from a return laid before Parliament last evening that the Canadian Finance Minister has been guilty of misappropriating public funds. The Bank of Montreal, knowing at the time that the bank was in difficulties. A few days ago Sir Leonard Tilgham stated in Parliament that it was on the recommendation of his deputy that the several advances were made to the bank. The correspondence, however, shows that on a verbal application Sir Leonard in April last ordered that \$100,000 be advanced to the bank and four days later that an additional sum of the same amount be placed on the bank's credit. On a third appeal for another \$100,000 the President writes to the Finance Minister that he requires that amount to place him in an independent position. He received the last amount. The bank closed its doors, and Mr. Tilgham, the late president, was, as is requested, placed in an independent position and now lives in New York. The bank having refused \$100,000 before failing, the matter will be thoroughly investigated before Parliament closes.

THE FAILURE OF P. W. THOMAS, SONS & CO.
LONDON, Feb. 2.—A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Blakey, the absconding member of the bankrupt firm of P. W. Thomas, Sons & Co. Since the failure Mr. Thomas has discovered that Blakey held a large sum of money in the name of the firm, and that the bulk of his open accounts were in American and Canadian railways, and included speculative accounts to the amount of \$700,000 in Atlantic and Great Western bonds, \$100,000 in Ohio and Mississippi, \$200,000 in Ontario and Western, and \$100,000 in Canadian bonds. The creditors are suffering in the Stock Exchange are leading jobbers in American stocks.

PERSECUTED FOR BEING A WITNESS.

DUBLIN, Feb. 2.—William Meagle, an important witness in the Patrick Pearse trials, complains that his life is made miserable owing to the continued persecution and frequent assaults which he suffers at the hands of sympathizers with the assassins of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Under Secretary Burke. [Mr. Meagle is a brass fitter. On the evening of the assassination, he, in company with a fellow-workman, was working in a Phoenix Park lane in the track of four men in the force, and on the trial identified Brady as one of the four.]

DAMAGE BY GALES IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, Feb. 2.—Serious gales are again reported in various quarters. They have been especially severe on the island of Jersey, and at Holyhead, Birmoutham, Chester, Harwich, Wick and the Isle of Man. Many rivers have overflowed their banks, and the floods are causing much damage. The streets of Dublin in Derbyshire are inundated. A portion of the breakwater at St. Ives has been demolished, and an iron bridge at Rhododan near Oldham has been blown down.

EUGENE ROUBER DYING.

PARIS, Feb. 2.—Le *Paris* reports that Eugene Rouher, the well-known Bonapartist, is dying, surrounded by his family.

FOREIGN NOTES.

LONDON, Feb. 2.—China has given a London firm a large order for torpedoes.

VIENNA, Feb. 2.—The police have compiled a list of foreigners who are to be expelled from the country. They have also closed Jacob's printing office, at which the *Seig* was published.

LONDON, Feb. 2.—Captain Austin, the American shooter, gave an exhibition of his skill at Leicester last Thursday. He shot a potato from the head of his daugh-

ter twice successfully, but the third time he attempted it the ball went through the wall and caused serious injury. Austin has been placed under arrest.

THE STRIKE BEGUN IN FALL RIVER.

EIGHT THOUSAND WORK PEOPLE THROWN OUT—NINE MILLS TO STOP.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

FALL RIVER, Mass., Feb. 2.—All the cotton operatives in fifty-one mills here quit work at three this afternoon, the regular stopping hour, taking their working clothes and tools preparatory to going on strike Monday. The day after tomorrow a similar movement in New England was entirely absent and the best order prevailed throughout. The meeting of the operatives to-night was crowded and long before the appointed hour the streets in the vicinity were full of people, anxious to ascertain the meeting's verdict. The meeting lasted about two hours. Several vigorous speeches were made denouncing the manufacturers' action. The advisability of striking at all was considered, and finally it was decided that such a step at present would prove disastrous. The following ten mills were then selected at which the first blow will be struck: Union, Nos. 1, 2, 3; Border City, Nos. 1, 2; Sagamore, No. 1; Teunisch-Chase, Wampanoag and State. The majority of these mills are controlled by the Brayton family, who are credited with the reduction. Richard Berke and his associates, who are credited with the reduction, are credited with the reduction. The following ten mills were then selected at which the first blow will be struck: Union, Nos. 1, 2, 3; Border City, Nos. 1, 2; Sagamore, No. 1; Teunisch-Chase, Wampanoag and State. The majority of these mills are controlled by the Brayton family, who are credited with the reduction. Richard Berke and his associates, who are credited with the reduction, are credited with the reduction. The following ten mills were then selected at which the first blow will be struck: Union, Nos. 1, 2, 3; Border City, Nos. 1, 2; Sagamore, No. 1; Teunisch-Chase, Wampanoag and State. The majority of these mills are controlled by the Brayton family, who are credited with the reduction. Richard Berke and his associates, who are credited with the reduction, are credited with the reduction. 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